

William J. Donovan
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December 18, 2020

Judith MacLeod Froman
 Chair, Board of Selectman
 Town of Bourne
 24 Perry Avenue
 Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts 02532-3441

AR
12-23-2020

Dear Ms. Froman:

BOURNE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
RCUD 2020 DEC 23 AM 9:55

On Wednesday, December 16th at 4:07 PM, the Bourne Police posted a notice on their Facebook page advising the citizens that Bourne was under a Winter Storm Warning through Thursday morning, making travel difficult and of possible safety hazards that could result.

At 5:38 PM that same afternoon, the Bourne Public Schools posted a notice on their Facebook page advising that Schools would be closed on Thursday, December 17.

Prior to these posts, the Department of Public Works had posted the following notice:

December 16, 2020 3:00 p.m.

Stay tuned for updates regarding Trash and Recycling Collection scheduled for Thursday December 17, 2020.

The interim DPW Director will make the determination as the storm progresses as to whether or not we be collecting trash and recycling on 12/17/20.

Once a determination has been made, we will do a reverse 911 call, as well as update our website and social media page.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

It was not until 5:50 AM, Thursday morning, December, 17 when the DPW posted they would indeed be collecting trash but would not be picking up recycling. See enclosure.

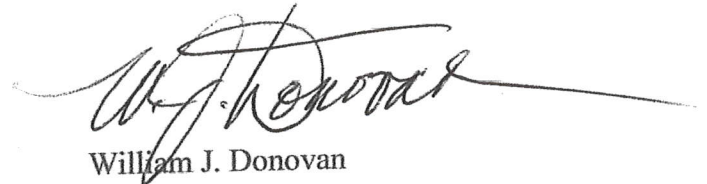
Then fifteen minutes later, at 6:05 AM, a Public Notice was posted on the Town Of Bourne website advising the Town Hall would be closed that day for all Non-Public Safety services. Another action contradicting the decision by DPW.

It is ridiculous for a decision and posting be delayed until that time. Residents generally put their bins out the night before collection. At 5:50 AM and through early afternoon snow and rain continued, creating a potentially dangerous situation for people to be taking out their bins. One would also think it unwise to have bins along the curb while snowplows are out.

Common sense would dictate delaying collection until Friday. Judging by the number of bins I observed in my neighborhood on Friday morning, that is indeed what most people believed.

Doesn't the Town of Bourne have a coordinated policy to deal with weather emergencies? The police were diligent in posting the weather advisory. The schools were attuned to that warning when declaring Schools to close on Thursday. Why would an Interim Director be left to make a call that was contrary to the decisions made by other Town Boards? Whether "Interim", or "Permanent", I would think the decision regarding whether there would be trash collection on a day with questionable conditions would be predicated on warnings issued by the Police Department. If the Police Department issues a "Snow Emergency", shouldn't all Town Departments be in harmony in restricting their activities?

Best Regards,



William J. Donovan

cc: Dennis Woodside, Chief of Police
Anthony Schiavi, Town Administrator



Home » Public Works

**Update - Trash/Recycling Collection Updates for 12/17/20 Snowstorm

POSTED ON: DECEMBER 16, 2020 - 2:53PM

**Update - December 17, 2020 5:50 a.m.

We will be collecting TRASH ONLY in the Pocasset/Cataumet area today.

We will NOT be collecting recycling this week.

We will resume on regular trash/recycling collection schedule next week.

Please let your family, friends and neighbors know about this weeks change.

We appreciate your understanding - please keep in mind, all the men and women you see on your trash recycling trucks are the same men and women driving snowplows & sanders; making our roads safe for all.

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